Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously presented) A method for managing configuration information in a storage controller, the method comprising:

setting, by an operator, backup parameters that define how a backup operation will be executed;

invoking a backup operation using the backup parameters; and

responsive to a given event:

determining if a removable non-volatile memory module is connected to a first storage controller; and

responsive to the removable non-volatile memory module being connected to the first storage controller, executing the backup operation to store configuration information from the first storage controller to the removable non-volatile memory module.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the given event is a command that was entered by an operator through one of interface software and a boot menu console.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

responsive to a restore event, restoring the configuration information from the removable non-volatile memory module to the first storage controller.

5.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the restore event is a command that was entered by an operator through one of interface software and a boot menu console.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

disconnecting the removable non-volatile memory module from the first storage controller.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

connecting the removable non-volatile memory module to a second storage controller.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

responsive to a restore event, restoring the configuration information from the removable non-volatile memory module to the second storage controller.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the restore event is a command that was entered by an operator through one of interface software and a boot menu console.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

determining whether the configuration information is compatible with the second storage controller; and

responsive to the configuration information not being compatible with the second storage controller, notifying an operator of incompatible configuration information.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration information includes at least one of configuration data, firmware, bootware images, and component summary data.

12. (Currently amended) A storage controller that is coupled between a computer system, which is external to the storage controller, and a storage system that includes at least one storage device, the storage controller comprising:

a processor;

a memory electrically coupled to the processor;

an externally accessible socket interface, wherein the externally accessible socket interface provides an electrical connection to the processor;

receiving means for receiving backup parameters from the computer system;

the backup parameters, set by an operator of the computer system, defining that define how a backup operation will be executed;

a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) slot;

invoking means for invoking a backup operation using the backup parameters; and

responsive to a given event:

determining means for determining if a removable non-volatile memory module is inserted in the PCMCIA slot electrically coupled to the processor through the externally accessible socket interface; and

responsive to the removable non-volatile memory module being inserted in the PCMCIA slot electrically coupled to the processor, executing means for executing the backup operation to

<u>copy</u> [[store]] configuration information from the memory to the removable non-volatile memory module.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The storage controller of claim 12, wherein the configuration information includes at least one of configuration data, firmware, bootware images, and component summary data.

16. (Original) The storage controller of claim 12, wherein the removable non-volatile memory module is a flash memory module.

17. (Original) The storage controller of claim 16, wherein the flash memory module has a flash file system format for storing data.

18. (Previously presented) An apparatus for managing configuration information in a storage controller, the apparatus comprising:

means for setting, by an operator, backup parameters that define how a backup operation will be executed;

means for invoking a backup operation using the backup parameters; and

means, responsive to a given event, for:

determining if a removable non-volatile memory module is connected to a first storage controller; and

responsive to the removable non-volatile memory module being connected to the first storage controller, executing the backup operation to store configuration information from the first storage controller to the removable non-volatile memory module.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising:

responsive to a restore event, restoring the configuration information from the removable non-volatile memory module to the first storage controller.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

responsive to a restore event, restoring the configuration information from the removable non-volatile memory module to a second storage controller.